

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /074 W

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R 181139Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4621

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3650

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG

SUBJECT: SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

1. PALESTINIAN SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF SEPT 16 THAT HE HAD TALKED RECENTLY WITH MEMBER OF NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE FRONT ABOUT SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN CONSULTATIONS PERTAINING TO SINAI AGREEMENT. FRONT MEMBER SAID ASAD FELT HE HAD BEEN REPEATEDLY MISLED BY EGYPTIANS DURING SINAI ACCORD NEGOTIATIONS AND SPECIFICALLY ACCUSED MARWAN AND MUBARAK OF "LYING." ASAD APPARENTLY HAD BEEN TOLD BY EGYPTIANS THAT AGREEMENT WOULD CONTAIN EXPLICIT TIE-IN TO FURTHER GOLAN DISENGAGEMENT AND POSITIVE REFERENCE TO PALESTINIAN ISSUE. WHEN ASAD READ TEXT OF AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, HE WAS FURIOUS AND POINTEDLY REFUSED TO RECEIVE MUBARAK WHEN LATTER VISITED SYRIA BETWEEN INITIALING OF ACCORD AND SECRETARY'S VISIT.

2. COMMENTING ON ASAD'S REFUSAL TO RECEIVE MUBARAK AND
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SYRIAN REACTION TO SINAI ACCORD IN GENERAL, EGYPTIAN EMBASSY

CONSELOR TOLD EMBOFF SEPT 17 THAT BEGINNING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS LAST JUNE, EGYPT HAD SENT SEVEN SEPARATE ENVOYS TO KEEP SYRIANS INFORMED ON COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS. CHARGES OF DUPLICITY AND LACK OF COORDINATION SIMPLY COULD NOT BE SUPPORTED, HE SAID. HE DESCRIBED FONMIN KHADDAM'S TOUR OF ARAB CAPITALS AS A FAILURE BOTH BECAUSE EGYPT HAD ALREADY OBTAINED BACKING OF KEY ARAB STATES AND BECAUSE ARAB LEADERS WOULD NOT TOLERATE THIS KIND OF BEHIND-THE-BACK TACTICS RATHER THAN SORTING OUT DIFFERENCES WITH EGYPTIANS FACE-TO-FACE.

3. COMMENT: ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL OUR COMMENTING ON RELATIVELY RELAXED MODD IN DAMASCUS IN AUGUST COMPARED TO THAT OF LAST FEBRUARY/MARCH WHEN INTERIM SINAI ACCORD SEEMED AT HAND. PARTIAL EXPLANATION GIVEN BY SYRIANS IN AUGUST WAS ALLEGEDLY BETTER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CAIRO AND DAMASCUS. PARA 1 SUGGESTS THAT COMMUNICATION WAS FAR FROM COMPLETE. THIS MAY HELP EXPLAIN UNEXPECTEDLY VEHEMENT SYRIAN REACTION ONCE TERMS OF ACCORD BECAME KNOWN.

MURPHY

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